

# 18th Military Police Brigade

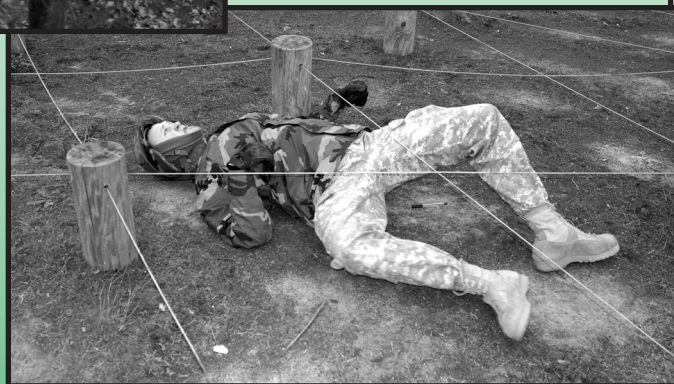


*By Specialist Daniel D. Blottenberger*

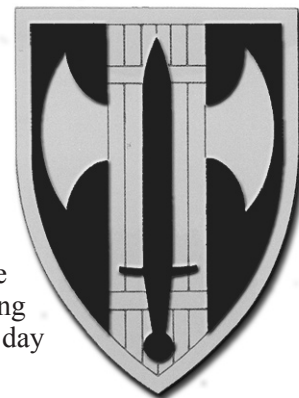
On 22 January, 28 competitors from 18th Military Police Brigade units all across Germany faced off for an intense competition at Baumholder for the chance to compete at the Military Police Corps Warfighter Challenge at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, in April 2007. The brigade will send two teams from its three battalions—the 709th, the 793d, and the 95th Military Police Battalions. Since the 709th had recently returned from a deployment and had fewer Soldiers ready for the rigorous competition, it combined forces with the 793d to compete with the much larger 95th Military Police Battalion.

“Because of this week-long event and the upcoming training, we should have strong, competitive teams representing our organizations at Fort Leonard Wood,” said the noncommissioned officer (NCO) in charge of the event.

The Warfighter teams consist of an NCO team leader and two Soldiers. The competition to choose the teams took place over four days. The first day began at noon and consisted of a pugil stick competition and an 8-kilometer run in uniform. The second day consisted of a 6-kilometer road march with a 35-pound rucksack, an obstacle course and rope climb, a hands-on weapons test, and a combatives competition.



# Warfighter Challenge 2007



By the third day, temperatures were dropping below freezing and snow was falling, but the competition continued. The day included a unique physical fitness assessment consisting of five 1-minute events, with a 45-second break between events. The assessment began with each Soldier bench-pressing his own body weight as often as possible, then performing hanging leg raises, pull-ups, elevated situps, and elevated push-ups. Next, the Soldiers qualified with their assigned M4 rifles and M9 pistols immediately after finishing another physical stress test. Finally, the Soldiers completed hands-on and written day and night land navigation courses.

On the final day, the Soldiers concluded the competition with a 10-kilometer road march with a 35-pound rucksack. During the 96-hour competition, the Soldiers also completed five written exams and performed various Warrior tasks and drills. At the end of the four grueling days, the brigade had picked two teams of primaries and alternates to represent it in April 2007 at Fort Leonard Wood.

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*Specialist Blottenberger entered the Army in December 2004 and attended basic combat training at Fort Leonard Wood. He trained as a combat medic and was later reclassified as a public affairs specialist at the Defense Information School at Fort Meade, Maryland. He is assigned to the 18th Military Police Brigade at Coleman Barracks in Mannheim, Germany.*

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